

THE PENNSYLVANIA

FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES,

ORGANIZED AT HARRISBURG,

JANUARY 5, 1905.

WM. STANLEY RAY,
STATE PRINTER OF PENNSYLVANIA,
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In answer to an invitation, under date of November 19, 1904, by Dr. John W. Jordan, Librarian Pennsylvania Historical Society, Dr. F. R. Dieffenderffer, Secretary Lancaster Historical Society, Boyd Crumrine, Esq., of the Washington County Historical Society, the Hon. James A. Beaver, President Pennsylvania German Society, and Luther R. Kelker of the Dauphin County Historical Society; issued by them to various Historical Societies in Pennsylvania and inviting them to appoint two or more delegates to a meeting to be held at Harrisburg, January 5, 1905, for the purpose of forming an association of said various Historical Societies and to discuss "the best means of collecting the bibliographical data concerning the publications of the respective Societies and individuals relating to the History of Pennsylvania," the following-named delegates appeared in the room of the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Harrisburg, Penna., January 5, 1905, 2 o'clock P. M.:

From the Pennsylvania Historical Society: John W. Jordan, LL. D.

From the Lancaster County Historical Society: F. R. Dieffenderffer, Litt. D., Mr. George Steinman, Rev. Jos. H. Dubbs, D. D., LL. D., J. W. Houston, M. D., Saml. M. Sener, Esq.

From the Washington County Historical Society: Boyd Crumrine, Esq., Mr. Isaac M. Weills.

From the Pennsylvania German Society: Julius F. Sachse, Litt. D.

From the Dauphin County Historical Society: Benj. M. Nead, Esq., Mr. A. F. Fager, Jas. M. Lamberton, Esq., Mr. Wm. A. Keller, Mr. Wm. C. Armor, John P. Keller, D. D. S., Mr. Luther R. Kelker, Hon. Thomas L. Montgomery, Hon. Theo. B. Klein.

From the Lebanon County Historical Society: Mr. Henry C. Grittinger, S. P. Heilman, M. D., Ezra Grumbine, M. D.

From the Chester County Historical Society: Gilbert Cope, Esq.

From the York County Historical Society: Prof. George R. Prowell.

From the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society: Rev. N. D. Lichliter.

From the Schuylkill County Historical Society: Mr. D. G. Lubold.

From Berks County Historical Society: Mr. Morton L. Montgomery, Mr. George M. Jones, Mr. B. F. Owens.

From the Hamilton Library Association of Carlisle: Mr. Jeremiah Zeamer.

As Dr. Diffenderffer had done the corresponding in preparation for this meeting he was called upon to preside temporarily in opening the meeting and an enrollment of the assembled delegates was made.

Dr. John W. Jordan was, on motion, elected temporary chairman and S. P. Heilman, M. D., temporary Secretary.

After tendering his thanks for the honor of presiding, Dr. Jordan briefly stated his views as to the scope, or field, of activity an Association of Historical Societies in the State should cover. The call for this meeting, as worded by the inviting committee, was read by the Secretary. Mr. Thomas L. Montgomery, State Librarian, gave his views as to the necessity of a State Association, and submitted a number of suggestions as to the practical good which might be accomplished. He said that he had held conversations with a number of members of various Associations and with the members of the Archive Commission, and that they had all agreed upon the advisability of incorporating in the Librarian's Report each year a check list of the papers and books published by the various Historical Societies throughout the State and by their members. As this report is distributed very freely, it could be used as a check list by librarians and historians; and might in time lead to the preparation of a general bibliography of the State. The idea had met with the very warm approval of Governor Pennypacker. On motion the remarks of Mr. Montgomery were adopted as a good expression of the end for which this Association should strive.

On motion of Mr. Montgomery two committees were ordered to be appointed, one on organization, and the other to gather the material for a check-list to be inserted in the State Librarian's Report to be issued in March of this year; this list to contain the papers and publications of Societies and members of Societies for the year 1904.

For the Committee on Organization, the chairman named: James M. Lamberton, Esq., Frank R. Diffenderffer, Litt. D., Boyd Crumrine, Esq.

Dr. Houston suggested for a title "The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies" as preferable to "Association." On motion this title was adopted.

After a short intermission the Committee on Organization presented the following report:

Name.

This Association shall be called The Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies.

Purpose.

The purpose of this Federation shall be the encouragement of historical research relating to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, especially in the preparation of check-lists of publications and the collection of material for a complete bibliography of the Commonwealth.

Officers.

The officers shall consist of a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall perform the usual duties.

Meetings.

The Federation shall meet at Harrisburg annually on the first Thursday in January.

Members.

This Federation shall be composed of such Historical and similar Societies in Pennsylvania as shall pay annually one dollar to the Treasurer.

First Officers.

President, John W. Jordan, LL. D., Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Vice Presidents: Gilbert Cope, Esq., Chester County Historical Society; Rev. Jos. H. Dubbs, D. D., LL. D., Lancaster County Historical Society; Rev. Horace Edwin Hayden, Wyoming Historical and Geological Society.

Secretary, Samuel P. Heilman, M. D., Lebanon County Historical Society.

Treasurer, Benj. M. Nead, Esq., Historical Society of Dauphin County.

On motion, the report of the Committee was adopted, and the persons named in the report as officers were duly elected on a motion put to the meeting by Mr. Lamberton.

President Jordan named as the Committee on Bibliographical data: Mr. Thomas L. Montgomery, E. Grumbine, M. D., Mr. George R. Prowell.

Following the announcement of this Committee a general discussion was held as to the breadth to be given that Committee in its work, as well as to the limitations to which it should be held, which discussion was participated in by Messrs. Crumrine, Montgomery, Heilman, Prowell, Sachse, Dubbs, Sener and others. In this discussion two special suggestions were submitted; one for a printed circular of questions to the Societies now constituting, or to become members of, this Federation, which questions shall be as to the history, special line of work, if any, and publications of each Society; the other suggestion by Mr. Cope, asking for the compiling of a complete list of all Historical Societies in the State.

On motion, the Committee on Bibliographical data was instructed to invite all historical societies in the State to join the Federation and to furnish a list of its officers and of its publications.

On motion, it was ordered that the Secretary of each Historical Society shall be requested to report to the Secretary of this Federation any duplicates of rare imprints, books or manuscripts it may possess, which it will be willing to sell or to exchange for similar matter in possession of any other

Society. Said motion was amended, referring the instruction contained therein to the Committee on Bibliographical data.

Bearing on this motion Mr. Crumrine stated that his Society, the Washington County, had duplicates of rare and valuable books; that it had two copies of Sally Hastings' Journal and Poems, published in 1802 at Washington, Penna., giving an account in prose and verse of her journey from Cumberland county over the mountains on horseback; and that after forty years of search he had lately succeeded in obtaining a copy of H. H. Brackenridge's "Incidents of the Whiskey Insurrection," published in 1795, the year after that rebellion.

On motion the Federation adjourned, 3.30 P. M.

S. P. HEILMAN,
Secretary



